

MaineCare Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2022
10:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
Via Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio called to order the regular meeting of the MaineCare Advisory Committee at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 3rd.

II. ROLL CALL

Kathy Kilrain del Rio conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Kathy Kilrain del Rio; Laurie Belden; Esther Bullard; Rachel Collamore; Laura Cordes; Jamie Cotnoir; Leo Delicata; Cathy Dionne; Gia Drew; Al Durgin; Rachel Dyer; Mark Eves; Suzanne Farley; Jillian Jolicoeur; Jim Martin; Vickie McCarty; Beth Pearce; Atlee Reilly; Dee Sabattus, and Jeff Tiner.

Department: Erik Eisele; Aaron Fotter; Fran Jensen; Bill Logan; Jenny Patterson; Michelle Probert, and Molly Slotznick.

Guests: Albert Abena; Sharlene Adams; Elizabeth Cameron; Jennifer Christian; Norma Desjardins; Brian Duffy; Leslie Dyer; Kate Ende; Judy Feinstein; Cathy Hamilton; Bethany Jarvis; Dan Morin, and Malory Shaughnessy.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a.) DHHS Updates With Michelle Probert

- The application for PC Plus is currently open, with a webinar to be held on Wednesday, May 18th.
- A second Adult Dental Benefit forum will be held on Wednesday, May 18th.
- No official word has been received as to when the public health emergency will be ending. The PHE is a Federal designation, and once the PHE ends that has ramifications for individuals who otherwise would have lost eligibility for MaineCare. The federal government has committed to giving 60 days' notice prior to the PHE end date, so we should know by May 16th whether the PHE will end on July 19th or will be extended another 60 days.

b.) Rate System Updates

- Related to LD 1867, the Department is actively working to finalize our schedule for rate studies for the upcoming fiscal years.
- The deadline for providers to pay out bonuses under HCBS recruitment and retention has been extended to 12/31/22.
- Laura Cordes noted that the Rate subcommittee is reviewing the new public law LD 1867. Providers want to get the best data and robust participation in the survey currently being conducted, and are requesting that the deadline be extended by another week.

c.) Rulemaking/Waivers/SPA Updates With Jenny Patterson

- Jenny noted the Department is excited to work with the MAC as we flesh out processes around LD 1867.
- Jenny noted that the Rule Status Update packet included with the agenda is organized to highlight rules with an open comment period and rules nearing adoption. Currently there is an open comment period on the HCBS transition plan. The plan is posted on the Department's website.
- The big focus going forward is on wrapping up implementation of the work from last year's budget, including the adult dental benefit . There will be an additional forum on May 18th.
- We don't yet know when the PHE will end, but the plan is to revise and re-adopt our COVID emergency rule so we can get it out before the PHE is over.
- We are considering presenting an overview of the rulemaking process for the MAC in an upcoming meeting.

d.) Provider Enrollment

- Bill and Aaron presented an overview of the enrollment process. Gainwell has been able to get the maintenance case backlog down so that it is now taking less than a month to complete enrollments. Currently there are slightly over 100 cases on the docket and it's taking about a week and a half to complete a maintenance case.
- Norma asked how many providers MaineCare has. Aaron noted there are slightly over 4,000 enrolled active billing providers .
- Norma noted that it is sometimes difficult to gather requested materials, such as copies of college diplomas and asked if all of the requested materials are truly necessary, given that providers first must have a license to practice in Maine before enrolling in MaineCare. Aaron noted there are only a handful of documents that are required, and that a college diploma is not something that is often required. Gainwell should not be asking for it for most routine cases. Aaron will provide a list of typically required documents. Aaron will circle back with Gainwell technologies to go over the desk level procedures to ensure that diplomas are only being requested in required situations.

- Bill noted providers can call and ask for additional time and the Department can accommodate reasonable requests for time.
- Norma suggested it would be helpful if there could be some type of provider enrollment liaison. Bill noted there is a provider call center that works with providers, and Aaron Fotter can also assist with issues if the call center is not being responsive.

e.) **Upcoming Meetings – Potential Scheduling Challenges**

- Michelle and Molly cannot attend the June meeting as currently scheduled, and in July our scheduled meeting is July 5th. Should we shift the June meeting to the second Tuesday in June?
- Do members wish to skip the July meeting or move to second week of July?

Items From Guests.

None

h.) **Wrap Up**

- The next MAC meeting will be held Tuesday, June 14th.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.